

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03000 251529Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-02 INT-08

DRC-01 IO-14 /140 W

----- 030049

R 251511Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0663

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: RECENT REMARKS OF JOBERT AND SCHEEL

REF: PARIS 4667

1. IN CONTRAST TO JOBERT'S BITTER WORDS CONCERNING GERMANS AND OTHER EC MEMBER STATES REPORTED IN PARIS REFTEL, WE ARE INFORMED THAT FRENCH EMBASSY IN BONN HAS, SINCE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, BEEN ACTIVELY DEPLOYED IN SEEKING TO SMOOTH RUFFLED GERMAN FEATHERS. IN PARTICULAR, WE LEARNED THAT DURING FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S RECENT

CALL ON STATE SECRETARY FRANK, SAUVAGNARGUES MADE
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PAGE 02 BONN 03000 251529Z

LENGTHY PRESENTATION TO EFFECT THAT FRG SHOULD NOT MIS-

INTERPRET OR OVERESTIMATE LONGER-TERM MEANING OF JOBERT'S ACTIONS IN WASHINGTON. BURDEN OF SAUVAGNARQUES DEMARCHE--HE APPEARED TO BE SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS--WAS THAT FRENCH COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT OF EC GOALS AND EUROPEAN UNION REMAINED "STEADFAST".

2. AS INDICATED BY FRANK'S COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND (BONN 2672) AND BY OUR RECENT REPORTS BEARING ON FRANCO-GERMAN RELATIONS (30NN 2919, 2461 AND 1872), FRG OFFICIALS HAVE FOUND FRENCH EMBASSY EFFORTS LESS THAN CONVINCING. JOBERT'S REMARKS TO FRENCH DEPUTIES CONCERNING SCHMIDT'S "PROVOCATIVE TONE (AND) USUAL BRUTALITY", EC "SERVILITY" AND EUROPEAN (I.E. FRG/UK) "TRAITORS" HAVE BEEN ELABORATELY REPORTED TO BONN BY FRG EMBASSY (PARIS) AND COVERED IN GERMAN PRESS. THE FRG HAS SAID PUBLICALLY THAT JOBERT'S REMARKS ARE BEING STUDIED CAREFULLY, BUT THAT COMMENT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL "IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION". PRIVATELY, THE GERMANS, UNLIKE JOBERT THEY SAY THEY ARE "NOT SMILING" ABOUT THE "HELLO TRAITORS" GREETING AND ARE SPECULATING WHETHER JOBERT WAS SEEKING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FLUID FRENCH DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION TO SCORE POINTS WITH THE GAULLIST DEPUTIES.

3. MEANWHILE, OUR CONTACTS ARE SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY SCHEEL'S FEB 21 VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENT THAT A WILSON LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TAKE BRITAIN OUT OF THE COMMON MARKET. SCHEEL APPARENTLY SAID THE EEC MUST MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO MEET SOME OF WILSON'S EC WISHES SHOULD LABOR WIN THE FEB 28 ELECTION BUT THAT THERE COULD BE NO RENEGOTIATION OF THE TREATY BETWEEN /ONDON AND THE EEC. THE FRG PRESS IS TERMING SCHEEL'S COMMENT UNFORTUNATE AND IS QUOTING INEVITABLE EXPRESSIONS OF OUTRAGE FROM PETER SHORE AND OTHER LABOR PARTY POLITICIANS. HILLENBRAND

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